

A  
**Vindication**  
OF THE  
Present GOVERNMENT  
OF  
**IRELAND,**  
Under his EXCELLENCY  
**RICHARD** Earl of **TIRCONNEL.**  
IN A  
**LETTER**



To a Friend.

With Allowance.

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*A Vindication of the present Govern-  
ment of IRELAND, under his  
Excellency Richard Earl of Tir-  
connel. In a Letter to a Friend.*

SIR,

**H**AVING allowed my self time to think,  
since our meeting the other Night, I  
have considered upon our several Ar-  
guments; and am still of Opinion, That Ire-  
land (in all Humane probability) is in a better  
way of Thriving under the Influence of a Na-  
tive-Governour, than under any Stanger to us  
and our Country.

A Man altogether of English Interest, never  
did, and likely never will Clubb with us, or  
project any thing for us, which may tend to our  
Advantage, that may be the least bar or pre-  
judice to the Trade of England; which is the  
only Nation in the World that impedes our  
Trade, as is manifest by too many sad Exam-

ples : If it had not been so, we might e're this have been in a condition of supplying his Majesty, when others (who have been more indulged) and for ends too obvious, have refused to do it.

The *Imbargo* upon our *West-India* Trade, is without parallel, considering we are the same Prince's Subjects: The like upon our *Irish* Cattel no less, an Act made by the Interest and Faction of a few Landlords, not only to the prejudice of a Kingdom as big and fertile (almost) as *England*; but to the dis-accommodation of many thousands in *England*, as often as they are hungry.

It must be allowed, That whoever Governs *Ireland*, will do it by Law; and such Orders as he shall receive from his Majesty : If such may be by any thought grievous, will the Distribution of them be worse, coming through the hands of our Native Governour, than from a Stranger ? I say, there would be as great a difference in the Concern for us, between the first and the last, as between the two Harlots upon *Solomon's* Division, though undoubtedly each would obey the King.

*Ireland*

*Ireland* consists of divers Interests : The *Irish* are pleased that they are under the Government of a Native , whole Relation , Deportment , and Friends, have removed all Jealousies of Inequality from them ; I will not say of their Religion too, because a Stranger may have that Qualification.

And for the *Brittish* in *Ireland* , they have not the least Reason to be dejected , because they are sufficiently secure : Our Governor's Education, his Stake he has in *England* , his most Excellent , Charitable, *English* Lady , himself descended from a Famous Ancient Stock of *English* Nobility , *TALBOT* ! A Name not less terrible to *France*, than it would have been to the Grand Usurper, when in *Ireland* at the Siege of *Drogheda*, if our Governor had been thought as ripe for the Charge of that Town, as he was Brave at his Post in the Defence of it : Brave, to the last Extremity ! And when he saw he could not die, he retired, when not above twelve Persons were left that had not fallen under the most savage Cruelties : At last himself, careless (as always) of his own Security , fell into the hands of an Enemy, by chance, more Generous than the *Boyl*-murdering General, who had not  
power

power like his thirsty Master, to demolish one of the goodliest Fabricks that Nature had framed. Thus Heaven preserved him not for small ends, but first to shew himself and the World what he durst do, and then for the future Service of his Prince and Country, against the most Critical Occasion that should happen in the Age.

And as I have said, the *Brittish* have no reason to be apprehensive ; so I must say it is very imprudent in any to demean themselves with that Immoderation towards a People of a contrary Interest, as to give them apprehensions of their future Security in a Change that may happen : For Self preservation is allowed by God and Man ; and no wise Man will leave any thing in hazard, he can put out of all danger : He was a good Instructor that said, *That Man was worse than an Infidel, that provided not for his Family.* Such lavish inconsiderate Bahlers in all Changes have been the ruine of many an honest Man, that has lost his Head in the Crowd, in the preventing Methods (perhaps) of succeeding Evils : The most Men bite at the Stone, and not at the Hand that threw it.

I confess, as was observed the other Night, the Clamours against our present Governour have been great; but not by any considering, indifferent Men. If he had acted any thing of himself, without Orders of his Majesty, he is faulty; but it is very apparent he has not. And certainly if my Lord *Tirconnel* had refused to observe the King's Commands, there were others would have endeavoured it. There was as great a Clamour in *England* for Continuing the present Army, as there was in *Ireland* for Disbanding some Officers. I dare say any Man might make his Fortune, that could make a plain Demonstration to the King, That there was no occasion for doing the one, or continuing the other.

The King and his Council having resolved such an Alteration in *Ireland*, as may put that Kingdom upon so equal a Ballance, That all his Subjects, of what Perswasion soever, may be useful to his Majesty abroad, and the several Interests poised at home: Therefore because this is New, it is Surprising; but not to those who consider, That what is proper Physick to a Nation at one time, may be Poyson

at



at another. If the King be the most proper Judge, and his Commands not to be disputed, then it was certainly a Vertue in him that undertook the rugged part of it, with reserve to his own present Eale, or future Events ; and also without regard to the Augmentation of his own Fortune ; the which no Man can lay to his Charge.

Whether he wished or advised such an Alteration, as was alledged t'other Night, I know not ; but (in my Opinion) it was both Politick and Reasonable, to give every Subject a possibility of sharing in the King's Favour, as he might deserve : For example, If matters in *Ireland* were upon the same bottom they were four or five years ago, and that the King for the Safety of his Subjects, had occasion to draw 30000 Men out of *Ireland* into *Flanders*, would it quadrate with the Humour and Interest of the *Brittish* there, or the Ballance of the Nation, to draw 30000 Protestants out of that Kingdom, and to supply Recruits from time to time ? If not, then I appeal whether it would be reasonable to expect that the *Roman Catholiques*, who never received an Advantage in time of Peace,



Peace, and altogether *Undisciplined*, should go only under *Pay* upon their *Fighting-Days*, and after be *Disbanded*. What Bar this *Constitution* has been, or if continued might be, to the *Glory* and *Advancement* of the *English Monarchs*, is apparent. It has been the occasion of *Establishing Animosities* between the *King's Subjects*, and of *Spending the Revenue* of that Nation, in the *Maintenance* of an *Army* for the *Support* ( with pardon I say it) of *State-mistaken Measures*. We may observe how *Holland* has maintained its Spot, by making use of all *Hands* upon occasion. There is an usual *Sea-Command* in great Distrels of Weather, *All Hands Aloft* ! And upon such Occasions, the *Passengers* are useful : It would be strange if the *Master* should prohibit any Man of a *contrary Religion* to his, from handling a *Tackle*, or trimming a *Sail*, to the hazard of his *Life* and *Ship*.

I observe, there is no such Bar to the *Repealing of the TEST*, as the *Apprehensions* all *Employments* have upon either *Military* or *Civil Lists*, That when the *Roman Catholiques* shall stand equally qualified by *Law* with the *Protestants* for *Employments*, that no other will be *employed* ; which

indeed is but reasonable they should expect, considering how they have been *Treated* by others. But his *Majesty*, the grand *Pilot*, will never suffer *Matters* to run again into a *Channel* so absolutely opposite to the *Interest* of the *Crown* ; nor will any succeeding *Prince*, of what *Religion* soever, as I really believe. And if his *Majesty* should think fit to make some such *Declaration* publick, I'm confident the *Test* would not give him much further trouble : It is *Interest* that is the *Obstruction* , and nothing else.

And no doubt the *Parliament* , whenever it pleases the *King* to call one, will *Repeal* it, for several weighty *Reasons*, fitter for *Contemplation* than *Discourse*, over and above that grand Reason, That the *King* would have it so, his *Conscience* and his *Honour* obliging him thereunto. And 'tis to be hoped, that the *King's* Gracious *Declaration* for *Liberty* of *Conscience*, will have such influence upon the *Protestant Dissenters*, a Rich *Trading* People, and who have no small share in the *Elections*, as well in *Shires* as *Corporations*, as to move them to use their *Endeavours* for the perpetuating this *Freedom* and *Liberty*.

That

That many *Families*, as you observed to other Night, have quit *Ireland*, is certain; though the *King* by his Chief *Governour*, and he by the *Judges*, gave the *Kingdom* as much Assurance, and perhaps more, than consisted with the *Intrigue* of *State* to make publick. It was the *Insinuation* of such who had a *Design* to allarm all *England*, to begin a *Confusion* in *Ireland*, and to lay our *Families* open to all the *Miseries* that attend *Rebellion*, and in order thereunto, oblige the *King* to lay aside his bold and useful *Minister*, than which nothing (in all *Humane Probability*) could be more fatal in that *Kingdom* at this *Conjuncture*; even to all but those whose *Interest* it is to have a *Stranger* to their *Persons* and *Departments*; such who have depopulated the *Kingdom*, lessened the *Revenue*, and pushed as far as Men could do, without open *Hostility*, to impoverish the *Nation*. And nothing contributed more to the *Consternating* poor *Innocent People*, nor proved so Noisie, as the false *Relation* of what passed upon the *Rendezvous* of two *Regiments* of *Foot* at *Molingar*; where my Lord *Tirconnel* viewed them: From whence it was reported through the three *Kingdoms*, That he turned out some *Hundreds* of

brave, proper, serviceable Men, and stript them, without considering what was Due to them.

It being my chance, as a *Traveller*, to be an Eye-Witnelſ of what paſt the two Days his *Lordſhip* was at *Molingar*; I ſhall relate the particular *Paſſages* of that *Transaction*; and ſhall ſay nothing more than what five hundred indifferent *By-ſtanders* can Witneſs to be literally true.

The firſt Day there appeared only (as I remember) the *Regiment* of the Lord *Montjoy*; a better I think I never ſaw, nor ſo well Equipt: My Lord *Tircomel* and Colonel *Hamilton* viewed each Perſon of it, Man by Man: I obſerved no *Alteration* that Day was made in that *Regiment*, ſave in the *Company* of *Granadiers*; ſuch as were not of a proper ſize, were ordered to be changed into other *Companies*; which Offer, ſome of them reſuſed to accept.

The next Day another *Regiment*, came up to the Ground; which when his *Lordſhip* had viewed, the ſeveral *Captains* were ordered to form their *Companies*; His *Lordſhip* in the Head of every *Company*, ſpoke in theſe Words: *Gentlemen,*

men, You are now to march to another Province; and such of you who have Wives, Trade, or Concerns, by means of which you cannot attend your respective Duties; you may now have leave to go off, and you shall be paid to this day: But such of you that are not so clogged, and have a mind to Serve the King, are heartily Welcome. After which, several strong able Men drew out, desiring their Discharges: Their Officers were ordered immediately to Account with them, and give them Certificates to their several Agents; which done, they were accordingly Payed. And for those who parted vvith their Nevv Cloaths, vvhich vv ere only the Lord Montjoys Men, vvho received their Cloaths but the very day before, vvith Orders to keep their Old ones, they vv ere satisfied in the Treasury for them, as vv ere all the rest of the Army that vv ent off.

The very same Day that this vv as transacted, I being vvith some Gentlemen on Dublin Road, overtook several Parties of these Souldiers: They told us they vv ere turned out, because they vv ere Protestants and English-men; and they managed this Matter vvith that Advantage, that they got several Collections, not only in Ireland, but

but in *England*; spreading the false Relation as well among the Innocent, as those who were glad to hear it. And several of those who quitted the *King's Service* in *Ireland*, having formal *Discharges*, have Lifted themselves in *England*: And I have heard some in *England* wonder such able Men should be turned out of the *Army* in *Ireland*, that are fit to be entertained here, or in any *Army*. I have therefore, Sir, inserted this Matter, to undeceive you; though his *Majesty* we know may turn Out, or turn In, whom he pleases, without the necessity of shewing any reason why he does it.

If it be a Crime in our *Native Governour*, as is alledged, That he gave little mean *Employments* to succour five of his *Relations*, who had been Sufferers, and Men of Quality, upon so great a Change: What was it in former *Governours*, who brought over as many Strangers to us, as lick'd up all the *Employments* in *Church* and *State*? Not only as fast as they fell, but by *Reversions* too, to the great Discouragement of our *Youth*, and *Learning*, and to the Grief of the whole *Nation*.

It

It is no wonder they should reflect upon our *Irish* Understandings, that complained not, but patiently lay under the weight of these *Grievances*, until *Fortune* did repent : In redressing of which, an *English* Governour (of what *Religion* soever) would be as Assistant to us, as he would be to the Repealing of the two *Acts of Parliament* before-mentioned, which related to our *Trade*, or that of *Poynings Law*.

It is very apparent, That *Ireland* breeds a People capable of such *Instructions*, as may be of as much Use and Advantage to the *King* and *Country*, as any of his Dominions doth : For example, Those who have applied themselves to the *Law*, have all arrived to that Perfection, that it would be Injurious to name Particulars : And how *Adroite* to *Arms*, Foreign Countries can Witness, how Unfortunate soever at Home : Whilst their Neglected, Undisciplined *Courage*, like Weapons lockt up in musty Scabbards, took rust, so that few could Draw in their Countries Defence ; and those that did, scarce knew how to manage. Though it is observed, that the *Youth* and *Mettle* of no *Nation* are sooner polishd. Besides, they fell under  
the



the Consideration of a Warlike, Disciplin'd People, seldom shockt: A *Nation*, which at that fatal time, having lost her *Pilot*, and not answering the *Helm*, run a-drift; and fell so foul on *Ireland*, that she split the *Land* so in flitters, that it is almost impossible to Cement and Settle it again, or Recover its Ancient *Land-Marks*.

All Men that are Strangers to a new *Governour*, must have equal Credit with him, he cannot for some time (how discerning soever) make a Judgment how to distinguish Men, and distribute his Favours; and by that time, perhaps he is removing, and then we have a new *Court* to make. If it be a Misfortune to a Man to have his *Lot* in a Subordinate *Country*, this Evil is no small Addition to it.

The next Obstruction of the *Weal* and *Trale* of our *Nation*, have been the *Tories*, in the true sense; for between *Whigg* and *Tory* the *Kingdom* is almost ruined. Most *Governours* so long as their several Charges remained steddy and safe in gross, mattered not much Particulars; Which *Maxim* has influenced most of the middle *Trading*, Industrious Planters of our *Nation*.

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Indeed I know not how a Stranger to us and the Kingdom, can remedy this; He cannot be supposed the best Guide in a Country new to him: And we know those whom Strangers have Consulted, have not always conducted them in the right Road.

But our *Native Governour* knows almost every Man in the *Nation* of any Consequence; he will soon be able to find out such Justices of the Peace as have been more than Connivers at Robbers; whilst others have been Censured for making strickt Enquiry after them, as Men of Honour and Conscience ought to do. But now, Sir, you'll find no Villains dare stir; if any should, no greater Villains will presume to intercede, or Censure those who at their own Expence and Hazard bring either to Justice.

I hope his *Excellency*, next *Parliament*, may propose the Repealing of the Statute for Benefit of Clergy, in Favour of Cow-Stealers, particularly that in Favour of House-Robbers; who finding a Man's Door open, are allowed Benefit of Clergy, and never fail to Read upon the Word of a Priest, in an *English Book*, that never knew

a Letter in any Book, and never could speak a Word of English.

But to conclude : I say, the greatest Equality his Majesty could do the Nation; the greatest Justice he could do his Minister, was, To give him leave to Govern, to shew the World he is not the Man E N V Y would have represented him : And (with pardon I say) the King could not do less to him, that had taken such Posts, as most Men in the World would have declined ; and now has the Helm of a Ticklish Nation, and will keep her steady, and a Veering against all those Storms of Envy and Rebellion.

Philip of Macedon making a Debauch among his Friends, in the midst of his greatest Affairs ; Let us Drink, said he, it is sufficient Antipater is Sober. This was a very high *Encomium* from an Excellent Sovereign Prince, to an Excellent Minister ; putting a true value on the Merit of Antipater, without regard to the Clamour of the Mob, or any Emulating Courtiers against him ; among whom Virtue and Merit are often suspected. A Prince so Just to his Minister, can have no cause to be Jealous of him. *Id. Agrip-*

pa had been a Man of such a Soul, *Augustus* had never been Master of the World.

His Excellency before he went for *Ireland*, insinuated not, in the least, his Instructions to any, nor his Intended Methods in Relation to his Government: He for no Ends would Communicate any thing but in proper place, being Resolved, as he has done, to Surprize the Nation. He endeavoured not to stem the Tyde of *Envy*, but with great Silence and equal Patience, waited at *Holly-head*, whilst the Winds seem'd to put a Bar to his *DU BLIN*; not to Obstruft, but as good Omens, to defer his Landing until the day of His Majesties Accession to the Crown: Portending nothing could add more to the Glory of that Celebration, than his Excellency's Arrival; where the roaring Multitude that had forgotten to Laugh, rallied their drooping Spirits, running in Shoals to Welcome their Lord, like meeting-Seas, wantonly jumping over one another.

Welcome as the Dove with the Olive-Leaf to the solitary Ark! So Welcome, that nothing can darken the Progress of his Glory, that soars no higher than his Masters Service, and the

good



good of his Country; where he has already given such Demonstrations, as have not only Confirmed the Excellency of his Majesty's Judgment in the Choice of a Minister, but raised a Monument to his own Honour. Kings, next God, know what is best for their Subjects; and their Injunctions, like Heavens, at first may seem harsh and rugged, whilst the Unthinking *Mobile*, and the Vicious *Incendiary*, like Longing Women, give not the Fruit leave to Ripen, but endeavour to blast even the Prime Reluctions of State in the very *Embryo*.

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THE

# Postscript.

**A**LL the remaining Hopes our Country's and our Governour's Ill-wishers now have, are, That the King's Revenue will Decline to a very Considerable Value, and thereby puzzle him, and give his Majesty Apprehensions of his own Mistake. I say, If the Revenue does not fall, they have been very false that Report it, and inform the World, That many of the Trading People in Ireland, have quit the Kingdom; and that those that remain at Cork, and other great Towns, are Resolved to Import no more Goods, and have drawn in their Effects: All this the King Himself has been told: And if True, it will be strange if the Revenue be not lessened a third at least. But if after all these Accidents, his Excellency can within a small matter, by his Prudent Conduct, keep up the Revenue, it will be thought very strange, that the Revenue was not much more before any thing of this hapned.

I cannot omit a Story that passed through all the ~~Town amongst the Crowd of Untruths~~, That a Quaker, a Rich Trader in Cork, being with the King since the Lord Tircconnel's going, His Majesty asked him, Why he would leave the Kingdom, and draw away his Effects? The Quaker Replied, No body that had any thing would stay in Ireland, but a Mad-man: Using other unman-nerly Expressions. Now it is certain, That that Quaker has not been in England since that time, nor long before; nor is there the least ground for this Report: But put the Case to be true, That the Trading Corporations in Ireland, are grown Sullen, and are resolved not to Trade; Is it not reasonable then, the Towns should be put in other Hands that will Trade?

I am not willing to make my Postscript longer than my Letter; I will therefore conclude, only using these short Expedients, in order to make all Industrious People stay in the Kingdom, which they will be sure to do, if Money be stirring: And the best Recipe to have it so, will be a Mint in Ireland; no Man to keep any Plate in his House; a Registry, and Interest of Money reduced I say, the next best and shortest Expedient would be, Leave to Transport our Irish Cattel: And because some few in  
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England will Complain, if they need *Help*, and will part with nothing ; and that His Majesty may have a Feeling too, let the Customs upon all our Cattel be doubled : By which means we shall be able to Transport none but large Cattel, with Encouragement to breed such for the English Trade ; and all our middle thick Runts will Accommodate our Forreign Trade, and our Cows supply the Consumption at home. It will be so general an Accommodation, That all the Lands in Ireland will be Employed, both Rough and Smooth, for the Supply of one Trade or other.

And whereas we have now in a Fair or Market, twenty Parcels of Bullocks against every Chapman, I say the Trade being opened, we shall have twenty Chapmen against every Parcel of Bullocks.

When I began, I did not think to Entertain you at this rate, with so troublesome and large a Discourse, but was drawn on by a Train of Thoughts.

Sir, If the length of my Paper affright you, I expect you will do as those who keep vast Libraries, and never Read a Word therein, only thereby amuse the Mobile.



SIR,

I am your Affectionate Friend  
To Serve You.

FINIS.